



Employment Labor Market Information Bulletin

Volume 13, No. 1

January 2001

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Increased by 7,200 Over the Year

The Unemployment Rate

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for December crept up 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.7 percent from November's figure of 3.6 percent. The level of unemployment increased by 100 from November to December. The unemployment rate inched down 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.7 percent in December from 3.8 percent a year ago. Nationally, the December unemployment rate held steady at the previous month's level of 4.0 percent. Rhode Island's unemployment rate remained below the national figure for the fourth straight month.

"The year ended on a positive note as December's unemployment rate remained below 4.0 percent," said Director Dr. Lee H. Arnold. "The trend over the twelve-month period indicates that the Rhode Island economy performed well in 2000. The preliminary annual average unemployment rate of 3.8 percent for 2000 is below last year's average of 4.1 percent."

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Year)

Since December 1999, the number of jobs in Rhode Island has increased by 7,200 or 1.5 percent to an all-time December high 480,800. Nearly all major industry divisions reported over-the-year gains with the largest occurring in Trade (+3,200), Services (+2,800) and Contract Construction (+1,000). Increases in Restaurant employment accounted for nearly two-thirds of the gain reported in the Trade sector. Within the Services industry, Business Services (+1,100) and Educational Services (+1,100) experienced the largest job gains, accounting for over three-quarters of the increase reported in this sector. A 1,000 job gain noted in Contract Construction is attributable to increases reported by Special Trade Contractors. Annual gains were also reported in Transportation & Public Utilities (+200) and Government (+100). The Manufacturing sector posted a decrease of 100 jobs over the year. (Continue on Page 4)

DLT to Assist Dislocated Ann & Hope Workers

Ann & Hope's recent announcement concerning store closings and downsizing prompted the Department of Labor and Training to dispatch its Rapid Response Team to meet with affected employees, explaining what they can expect in the coming months. Topics such as unemployment insurance, training programs and re-employment options were discussed and questions from apprehensive workers were entertained.

The company, which has approximately 500 Rhode Island employees who will be dislocated, is working closely with the agency's Employer Service Unit in an attempt to assist workers in their job search. Because the lay-offs are planned to take place over a period of time, multiple job fairs are being scheduled to facilitate the transition to new employment.

Local employers are being encouraged to take advantage of these sessions that are expected to begin this month. Although Ann & Hope is a retail establishment, companies should be advised that, in addition to the traditional positions associated with the industry - clerk/typists, administrative assistants, buyers, and technical support staff - to name just a few, will all be available for resume review and interviews.

If your company would like to be an active participant in the upcoming job fairs, you may contact the Employer Service Unit and they will be happy to make your inclusion into the process a smooth and productive one. Whether you're a large retail operation or a small upstart group, use this opportunity and make the most of hiring from a pool of talented, dedicated and hard-working people!

Employer Service Unit
Christine M. Grieco
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Rhode Island Labor Force Statistics*

(in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Dec 00	Nov 00	Dec 99	Dec 00	Nov 00	Dec 99
Civilian Labor Force	508.7	509.8	510.1	505.8	505.4	507.1
Resident Employment	492.7	493.8	493.0	487.3	487.0	487.8
Unemployment	16.1	16.0	17.0	18.5	18.4	19.3
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	3.1%	3.3%	3.7%	3.6%	3.8%

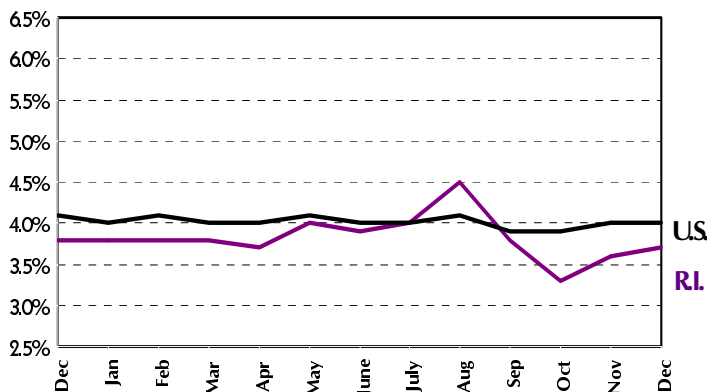
United States Labor Force Statistics

(in thousands)

	Unadjusted			Seasonally Adjusted		
	Dec 00	Nov 00	Dec 99	Dec 00	Nov 00	Dec 99
Civilian Labor Force	141,319	141,025	139,941	141,489	141,136	140,185
Resident Employment	136,092	135,731	134,696	135,836	135,478	134,498
Unemployment	5,227	5,295	5,245	5,653	5,658	5,687
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%

Rhode Island & United States Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted 1999-2000



City & Town Unadjusted Unemployment Rates

	Dec 00	Dec 99
Barrington	1.7	2.3
Bristol	2.6	2.8
Burrillville	3.0	3.2
Central Falls	5.3	5.1
Charlestown	3.4	4.2
Coventry	3.1	2.9
Cranston	3.1	3.2
Cumberland	2.2	2.4
East Greenwich	3.3	2.9
East Providence	3.3	3.8
Exeter	3.3	2.9
Foster	2.8	3.7
Glocester	2.0	2.6
Hopkinton	2.1	2.3
Jamestown	3.1	2.8
Johnston	3.5	3.8
Lincoln	2.4	2.8
Little Compton	2.4	2.5
Middletown	3.0	3.0
Narragansett	2.0	1.9
New Shoreham	17.3	16.0
Newport	3.5	3.8
North Kingstown	2.6	2.6
North Providence	3.3	3.4
North Smithfield	2.1	2.6
Pawtucket	3.7	3.5
Portsmouth	2.5	2.8
Providence	4.2	4.5
Richmond	1.0	1.7
Scituate	2.8	3.1
Smithfield	2.7	3.0
South Kingstown	2.2	2.8
Tiverton	3.1	3.0
Warren	2.8	3.0
Warwick	2.9	2.9
West Greenwich	2.8	2.8
West Warwick	3.5	4.0
Westerly	2.3	2.9
Woonsocket	3.6	3.6
State of R.I.	3.2	3.3

Unemployment Insurance Claims Activity

	Dec	Nov	Dec	% Change		Year to Date		
	2000	2000	1999	Nov 00	Dec 99	2000	1999	% Change
Initial Claims	11,599	6,248	12,529	85.6%	-7.4%	84,587	93,198	-9.2%
Number of Payments	37,219	31,162	40,854	19.4%	-8.9%	536,649	581,240	-7.7%
Amount of Payments (gross millions)	\$9.3	\$7.8	\$9.9	20.0%	-5.5%	\$130.7	\$135.9	-3.8%
Exhaustions (Final Payments)	959	864	1,107	11.0%	-13.4%	12,501	13,562	-7.8%
E.S. Fund Balance (millions)	\$295.7	\$299.2	\$260.5	-1.2%	13.5%			

*Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Labor Force statistics are compiled by Labor Market Information, in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Dept. of Labor.

For additional information, comments or suggestions, contact

Labor Market Information, Phone (401)462-8740, Fax: (401)462-8766, www.dlt.state.ri.us/lmi

The Economic Data We Provide Depends on the Information You Supply!

The Department of Labor and Training is in the final stage of the initiative to implement the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). This new system, which replaces the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) coding system, offers a much better picture of the economy of the twenty-first century by providing detailed information about many industries that were previously clustered together.

Refiling surveys were recently mailed to this year's selected firms. The survey is designed to collect information about each establishment's primary business activity for the purpose of assigning an industry classification code. If your company was chosen to participate in this year's survey, please complete the form and return it to the Labor Market Information unit. Your cooperation insures that the proper NAICS code will be assigned to your company.

If you have any questions about the Refiling Survey or would like more information about NAICS call the LMI unit at (401) 462-8760.

Total Establishment Employment in Rhode Island**

	Employment (in thousands)			Net Change From	
	Dec 00	Nov 00	Dec 99	Nov 00	Dec 99
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	480.8	481.7	473.6	-900	7200
GOODS PRODUCING	93.9	94.5	93.0	-600	900
Contract Construction	19.4	19.8	18.4	-400	1000
Manufacturing	74.5	74.7	74.6	-200	-100
SERVICE PRODUCING	386.9	387.2	380.6	-300	6300
Trans. & Public Utilities	16.6	16.6	16.4	-----	200
Trade (Wholesale & Retail)	111.8	110.7	108.6	1100	3200
Wholesale	20.3	20.4	20.2	-100	100
Durables	12.6	12.6	12.7	-----	-100
Nondurables	7.8	7.8	7.5	-----	300
Retail	91.5	90.3	88.4	1200	3100
Building & Garden Supplies	2.5	2.5	2.4	-----	100
General Merchandise	8.2	8.1	8.3	100	-100
Food Stores	16.2	16.2	16.2	-----	-----
Automotive Dealers	7.7	7.7	7.5	-----	200
Apparel & Accessory Stores	5.6	5.3	5.3	300	300
Furn., Home Furn., & Equip.	2.8	2.6	2.6	200	200
Eating and Drinking Places	32.2	32.1	30.2	100	2000
Miscellaneous Retail	16.3	16.0	16.0	300	300
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	29.7	30.0	29.7	-300	-----
Depository Institutions	8.7	9.0	8.8	-300	-100
Services	163.9	165.1	161.1	-1200	2800
Hotels & Other Lodging	4.2	4.6	3.8	-400	400
Business Services	30.9	31.3	29.8	-400	1100
Auto & Misc. Repair	5.4	5.3	5.0	100	400
Amusement & Recreation	4.8	5.1	4.9	-300	-100
Health Services	51.4	51.4	52.0	-----	-600
Educational Services	18.9	19.3	17.8	-400	1100
Social Services	15.7	15.5	15.5	200	200
Government	64.9	64.8	64.8	100	100
Federal	10.6	10.4	10.6	200	-----
State	18.3	18.3	18.5	-----	-200
Local	36.0	36.1	35.7	-100	300
Education	22.8	22.7	22.9	100	-100
Non Education	13.2	13.4	12.8	-200	400

□ Publication of these industries is not approved by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Establishment Employment, Hours and Earnings in Manufacturing Industries in Rhode Island

	EMPLOYMENT (in thousands)					PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES					
	Net Change					Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Dec 00	Nov 00	Dec 99	Nov 00	Dec 99	Dec 00	Nov 00	Dec 99	Dec 00	Nov 00	Dec 99
MANUFACTURING	74.5	74.7	74.6	-200	-100	40.0	40.0	41.1	12.25	12.21	12.17
DURABLE MFG.	48.3	48.6	49.1	-300	-800	40.0	40.1	40.7	12.04	12.00	12.00
Lumber/Furniture	2.8	2.7	3.0	100	-200	38.7	41.4	41.6	12.02	12.02	12.02
Stone-Clay-Glass	1.0	1.0	1.2	-----	-200	41.2	40.8	42.5	13.97	13.91	13.91
Primary Metals	3.9	3.9	4.3	-----	-400	42.9	42.1	40.4	12.80	12.77	12.89
Fabricated Metals	8.3	8.4	8.4	-100	-100	38.3	38.5	36.9	11.41	11.40	11.11
Nonelectrical Mach.	5.2	5.3	5.0	-100	200	40.5	40.9	42.5	13.59	13.51	13.54
Electrical Mach.	5.5	5.4	5.4	100	100	39.8	39.8	42.1	11.42	11.50	11.62
Trans. Equipment	3.6	3.5	3.5	100	100	41.5	41.7	43.0	14.43	14.45	14.37
Instruments	5.3	5.3	5.4	-----	-100	40.1	39.2	39.0	12.71	12.59	12.70
Jewelry-Silverware	9.6	10.0	9.8	-400	-200	39.5	39.7	41.1	10.48	10.46	10.42
Miscellaneous Mfg.	3.1	3.1	3.1	-----	-----	41.9	39.1	42.8	11.62	11.51	11.61
NONDURABLE MFG.	26.2	26.1	25.5	100	700	39.9	40.0	42.0	12.63	12.59	12.50
Food Beverage	3.3	3.2	2.7	100	600	40.9	39.1	41.4	11.32	11.29	11.31
Textiles	6.8	6.8	6.9	-----	-100	39.2	39.6	41.3	10.92	10.90	10.67
Apparel	0.8	0.8	0.9	-----	-100	38.4	38.6	40.5	9.31	9.24	9.29
Paper Products	2.2	2.2	2.0	-----	200	40.1	40.5	42.4	12.33	12.34	12.02
Printing-Publishing	5.3	5.3	5.3	-----	-----	39.0	40.3	43.5	16.70	16.67	16.70
Chemical Products	2.3	2.3	2.1	-----	200	41.6	41.0	42.7	14.10	13.95	14.08
Rubber Products	0.6	0.6	0.5	-----	100	40.8	42.8	44.0	13.11	12.83	13.03
Plastics Products	4.4	4.4	4.7	-----	-300	40.6	40.9	41.9	13.47	13.47	12.99
Leather Products	0.5	0.5	0.4	-----	100	42.2	38.7	40.7	8.37	8.35	8.34

**Current month figures are PRELIMINARY, prior month & year are REVISED. Totals may not add due to rounding.
Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic & Armed Services personnel are excluded from Establishment Employment figures.

The Number of Jobs in Rhode Island Increased by 7,200 Over the Year

(Continued from Page 1)

Rhode Island Job Highlights (Over the Month)

The number of jobs in Rhode Island decreased by 900 over the month, largely the result of seasonal reductions in Services (-1,200) and Contract Construction (-400). These losses more than offset a 1,100 job gain reported in the Trade sector.

Trade – Trade reported a net gain of 1,100 jobs over the month, nearly twice the increase normally experienced in December. The largest gains were reported in Apparel & Accessory Stores (+300), Miscellaneous Retail (+300) and Furniture, Homefurnishings & Equipment (+200). Restaurants and General Merchandise Stores each added 100 jobs over the month while Wholesale Trade declined by 100.

Government – Public sector employment posted a gain of 100 over the month with growth concentrated in the Federal segment. An increase of 200 in Federal Government employment is attributed to the seasonal hiring of postal workers for the holiday rush. Local Government employment decreased by 100 over the month while employment in State Government remained even.

Contract Construction – The Construction industry had a net loss of 400 jobs, due to declines reported by Heavy Construction and Special Trade Contractors, which offset increases reported by General Building Contractors.

Manufacturing – Manufacturing lost 200 jobs over the month – about a third of the decline that is expected for this time of year. A decline of 400 jobs in Jewelry/Silverware, together with minor losses in Fabricated Metals and Nonelectrical Machinery, offset small gains reported in Lumber/Furniture, Food/Beverage, Electrical Machinery and Transportation Equipment.

Services – The Services sector declined by 1,200 jobs over the month due to seasonal losses in several industries. Employment at private educational institutions was down 400, marking the beginning of the winter break. Business Services posted a drop of 400, mostly due to decreased employment among temporary help agencies. Employment also declined in vacation-related industries – Hotels/Lodging and Amusement/Recreation trimmed their payrolls by 400 and 300 jobs, respectively.

Finance, Insurance & Real Estate – Finance, Insurance & Real Estate employment decreased by 300 over the month due to cutbacks in local banks.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers

	Dec 00	Nov 00	Dec 99	% Change Prev. Year
All Items	174.0	174.1	168.3	3.4%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Census 2000 Population Results for New England

The US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, recently released state population figures for 2000. The population increased in all of the New England states between 1990 and 2000. Rhode Island gained nearly 45,000 residents over the 1990's. The number of Rhode Island residents grew from 1,003,464 in 1990 to 1,048,319 in 2000. The State's growth rate of 4.5 percent for the decade topped Connecticut and Maine, which increased by 3.6 and 3.8 percent, respectively.

New Hampshire was the fastest-growing New England state, climbing 11.4 percent to 1.2 million residents. Vermont grew by 8.2 percent to 609,000 residents and Massachusetts increased by 5.5 percent to 6.3 million. The nation, as a whole, grew by 13.2 percent to 281.4 million between 1990 and 2000.

New England Population 1990 - 2000

Area	1990 Census Population	2000 Census Population	Change 1990 - 2000 Net	Percent
Rhode Island	1,003,464	1,048,319	44,855	4.5%
Connecticut	3,287,116	3,405,565	118,449	3.6%
Maine	1,227,928	1,274,923	46,995	3.8%
Massachusetts	6,016,425	6,349,097	332,672	5.5%
New Hampshire	1,109,252	1,235,786	126,534	11.4%
Vermont	562,758	608,827	46,069	8.2%
United States	248,709,873	281,421,906	32,712,033	13.2%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau